

SECRET

020 20 6371
DD/S 70-2280

4 JUN 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: GAO Survey of Refugee Programs in Vietnam and Laos

25X1A

1. On 2 June 1970 [] and I met with Mr. Samuel Kleinbart, Mr. Roy Jenney, and Mr. Joel Slotsky to discuss the Agency's position on the Laos refugee matter as agreed in the DD/S 1 June meeting with Legislative Counsel, Chief, FE, and Deputy General Counsel. I explained the Agency's dilemma in desiring to have GAO receive information it needs to do its job for the Senate Subcommittee on Refugees and Escapees, Judiciary Committee, while ensuring that pertinent facts concerning the Agency's participation are correctly represented and controlled. I cited, and [] demonstrated, the example of the detailed reports of 1968 vintage which showed on the same sheet items concerning combatants and items concerning non-combatants without distinguishing the extent to which the former were funded by CIA. [] also pointed out that some of the detailed listing could result in a essentially current order of battle for the irregular troops. On the latter point, Mr. Kleinbart expressed the belief that his group should be able to deal with totals although he recognized that access to some detail as suggested by Mr. Jenney would be necessary to validate the totals. Mr. Kleinbart also stated that GAO would check with us any Agency-type information before submitting its report to the Committee.

25X1A

2. Mr. Jenney pointed out that the GAO team has received virtually no information from AID on basic refugee supply and air support arrangements and has been unable to identify any contact for related information within DOD. He said that the 1968 report, which we had shown to demonstrate our worry, might be interesting as background, but the GAO team really is interested only in 1969 and 1970 data. He amplified the GAO desire to have access to information which would enable audit-type questions to be posed and audit examinations of records to be made. The two problems are the number of people being supported,

OGC Has Reviewed

SECRET



CRC, 4/3/2003

including status as combatants, dependents of combatants, and refugees, with funding details and air support specifics, including cargo and cost splits among participating U. S. Government organizations. In the latter case, on the air side, he said, for example, that GAO understands AID Air to be \$6 million but has no idea of what the total of which this is a part might be. GAO would like to be able to confirm that funds appropriated for refugees are exclusively used for refugees and to be able to confirm in AID records the receipt of appropriate reimbursements from DOD and CIA. Mr. Jenney has informed the Kennedy Committee staff (he gave us the name of Mr. Dale de Haan, Counsel) that the GAO report will be classified Secret. (This seemed to cause no concern.) He recognizes the political overtones to the whole Committee inquiry.

3. We indicated that we would have to discuss their specific needs somewhat further internally and also with the other parties concerned. We acknowledged the extremely short time available for completion of even the preliminary report which is due to be made to Senator Kennedy by 15 June. We "hoped" to be in touch later during the day with some Agency conclusions.

25X1A

4. After returning from GAO, [] and I met with [] FE [] We reviewed the air arrangements, including copies of some AID correspondence. We also clarified the matter of payments for rice, the records on which indicate that AID fully funded rice costs in the North in years preceding 1969 and CIA paid for 50 per cent of the cost of transportation for combatants. Beginning in 1969 DOD picked up the tab. We agreed that, given the public acknowledgement of CIA involvement in Laos, we could do only harm if the Agency attempted to block AID responsiveness to GAO needs. On the basis of this conclusion, [] arranged to see Mr. Thompson, AID, on the morning of 3 June to check over one last time the papers which AID had isolated as containing Agency information. Mr. Thompson was informed of our meeting with Mr. Kleinbart and the basic understanding reached with him. Mr. Thompson was also informed that we felt the information from AID files should be made available to GAO.

25X1A
25X1A

25X1A

25X1A

5. After verifying the above with the DD/S, I telephoned Mr. Kleinbart to tell him of the 3 June [] meeting and our expectation that AID would make information available, hopefully, as early as 3 June.

(signed) John W. Coffey

John W. Coffey
Assistant Deputy Director
for Support

~~SECRET~~

SUBJECT: GAO Survey of Refugee Programs in Vietnam and Laos

ADD/S:JWC/ms (2 June 70)

Distribution:

Orig - DD/S Subject

1 - Chief, FE

1 - General Counsel

1 - Legislative Counsel ✓

1 - DD/S Chrono

Background: DD/S 70-2227, 70-1961, 70-1930.